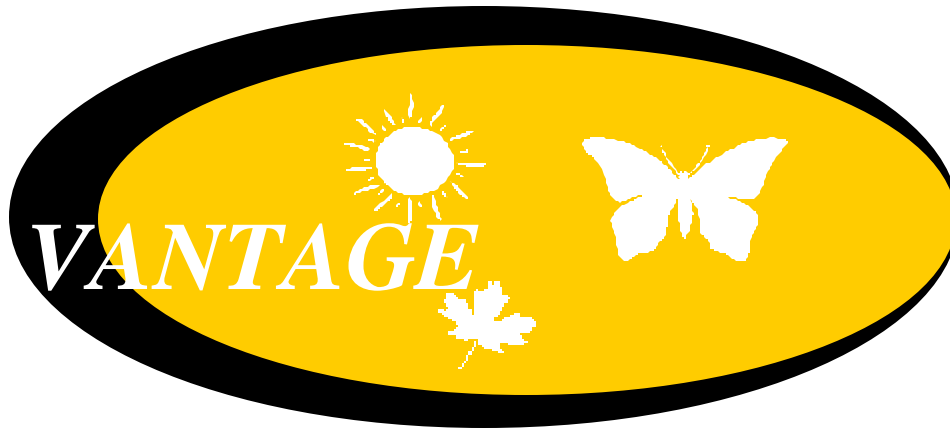


# U.S. Department of the Interior

## Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States



SUMMER 2001

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

### Public Comments Requested for Management of Meadowood Farm

*By Charles Bush, Meadowood Farm Project Manager, and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States*

Photo by Geoffrey Walsh



A view of the hardwood forests of the Meadowood property on Mason Neck. The forest changes with the season, provides for more than 75 species of migratory song birds, and is a significant part of a process that maintains runoff to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

On May 16, BLM, Eastern States conducted a public meeting at Gunston Elementary School in Lorton, Virginia, to discuss possible management alternatives for over 800 acres of land that could be acquired in Fairfax County, Virginia. The property is known as Meadowood Farm. About 60 residents from the Mason Neck community and State Senator Toddy Puller attended the meeting to express their ideas and concerns about the activities and potential impacts Federal ownership of this land could have on them and the resources in the area.

The meeting began with an overview of BLM, Eastern States' programs and a review of the history of the acquisition project. The audience separated into six work groups, and each group developed its own list of issues, planning constraints, and suggestions for the management of the Meadowood Farm property. A recorder from each group then reported out to the reassembled audience.

The tone of the meeting was very congenial, and the work groups quickly developed a sense of camaraderie. Their comments covered a very broad range of prospective activities, from a model airplane course to therapeutic horse riding. Several members of the audience expressed their pleasure with the meeting format and a willingness to volunteer to assist at Meadowood Farm.

Two issues expected to generate controversy failed to do so. There was no support expressed for off-highway vehicle or motorized vehicle use; in fact, four of the six work groups expressly opposed it. Also, there was no opposition to continuing to offer private boarding in some of the 50 horse stalls at Meadowood Farm.

The meeting concluded with a brief recap of the next steps in the planning process and a round of questions and answers. Public comments were accepted through June 27, and Eastern States expects to issue the draft Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment for public comment later this summer.

*Guardians of the Past — Stewards for the Future*  
*... sustaining the public lands in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River.*



## State Director's Message



**E**astern States' activities are progressing rapidly and successfully. Some of our highest priorities so far this summer include land acquisitions, the President's Energy Plan, and wildland firefighting.

Final steps are underway for the complex land transfers in Fairfax County, resulting in BLM acquiring approximately 800 acres of land in Northern Virginia's Mason Neck. The farm, known as Meadowood, is, in part, a working horse farm. The land is significant for its wildlife habitat and recreation possibilities, and we are actively planning future uses for the land after we acquire it. We will likely continue to emphasize equestrian activities such as spotlighting BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program and will possibly use about 600 acres of woodland for environmental education and light impact recreation. However, our planning process with the public and future budget will ultimately determine specific activities on the land.

Eastern States' acquisition of land in Charles County, Maryland for the Lower Potomac River Project is also proceeding well with our partners, the State of Maryland, Charles County, and The Conservation Fund. The land under consideration is a remote wilderness area that serves as a refuge for plant and animal species and contains important cultural resources. The acquisition is intended to preserve the area but also contributes to the long-term economic benefits for local communities. As with Meadowood, we are deeply involved in working with our partners and the local community to plan the acquisition and potential future activities. The collaborative community workshop we sponsored in the spring was highly successful and is serving as the cornerstone for more specific planning.

With oil and gas leasing being such an important program for Eastern States, it makes sense for us to be actively involved in planning the implementation of the President's Energy Plan. Several members of Eastern States staff participated in a national BLM meeting this spring to address the subject. We have been doing extensive workforce planning, and we are ensuring that we will be prepared to handle potential increased interest in leasing, production, and inspection and enforcement. We are working with our surface management partners in the East to focus on our land use and environmental planning, which will be critical for making wise leasing decisions in the future.

The Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew is off to what appears to be another busy season. After completion of training in late May, the Crew reported immediately to the Lake George Ranger District in the Ocala National Forest in Florida, where they were involved in fuels reduction work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the South. Following, the Crew moved on to the "Lost Fire" in Buena Vista, Virginia. In July, the Crew headed West. We all wish them a safe fire season.

Other important Eastern States' programs and endeavors which you may find interesting and informative are highlighted in this issue—environmental education, the Wild Horse and Burro Program, lighthouses, records and technology.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer!

**Director, Eastern States**

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*Cover: Public Comments Requested for Management of Meadowood Farm*



## U.S. Army Caisson Platoon Adopts New Mustang for Arlington Cemetery

*Story and photo by Jinx Fox, Lead Wild Horse & Burro Specialist, Eastern States*



**"Olie," a wild mustang from Wyoming, becomes the second adopted horse for the U.S. Army at Fort Myer, joining former wild mustang "Casparina," who has been with the caisson unit for many years.**

**T**he U.S. Army Caisson Platoon adopted a new mustang this past spring for their ceremonial caisson work in parades and burials at Arlington Cemetery.

Acquiring this horse has involved help and assistance across BLM, from Wyoming to Virginia. Last year, the horse was identified by BLM's Wyoming State Office Wild Horse & Burro staff in response to a request asking if any BLM WH&B holding facility had a horse which met the U.S. Army specifications.

U.S. Army Caisson Platoon Leader Chief Charles Sowles and the U.S. Army farrier and veterinarian traveled to Wyoming last summer and inspected the horse, a black gelding nicknamed "Olie," which resided at Wyoming trainer Steve Mantle's ranch. "Olie" impressed the U.S. Army, however, he did have a recurrent sarcoid tumor over one eye which was not responding to conventional treatment. The U.S. Army could not adopt him until it was successfully resolved. Last fall BLM arranged to haul "Olie" to the Colorado Veterinary College in Ft. Collins, Colorado for intense treatment. Dr. Lisa Hatcher from the U.S. Department of Agriculture facilitated the treatment, and by winter, the tumor had disappeared and showed no signs of reappearing.

Early this spring, "Olie" was transported from Wyoming by Milwaukee Field Office Wild Horse & Burro Specialist Art DiGrazia to an adoption site in Pennsylvania, where Jinx Fox arranged to transport him to Virginia. Awaiting adoption, "Olie" resided at a Virginia farm, where he was exposed to increased activities and people. Today, kids on bikes and dogs underfoot no longer bother this stout black horse.

"Olie" was formally adopted by the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon Chief on May 23. He now resides at the U.S. Army stables, which are open to the public, at Fort Myer, Virginia, right outside Washington, D.C.

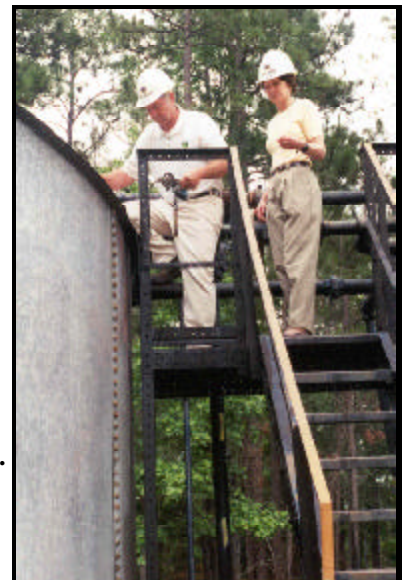
## State Director Visits Oil & Gas Fields in Mississippi

*Story and photo by Sid Vogelpohl, Assistant Field Manager, Jackson Field Office*

**I**n May, Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon accompanied Jackson Field Office (JFO) Lead Petroleum Engineer Technician Ray Boteler for a review of wells and facilities at oil and gas production operations on the DeSoto National Forest in southeast Mississippi.

*Continued on page 4*

**Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon (right) witnesses oil measurement procedures by JFO Lead Petroleum Engineer Technician Ray Boteler at a 500-barrel tank.**







## Offshore Drilling in Minnesota?

*Story and photo by Vince Vogt, Rolla Assistant Field Manager, Division of Solid Minerals, Milwaukee Field Office*

Minnesota doesn't border an ocean, but it has drilling rigs on the water. These rigs aren't looking for oil and gas, but are drilling for Platinum Group Metals (PGM's), mainly platinum and palladium.

PGM's serve a very important role in allowing us to cleanly use energy. The principal consumer of PGM's is the automobile industry, where they are used in catalytic converters to clean car exhaust emissions and to help keep our air fresh. Other uses of PGM's are for jewelry, dental restoration, cancer chemotherapy, and fuel cells.

These uses make PGM's very valuable. While gold is presently selling for about \$275 per troy ounce, platinum goes for \$615 and palladium sells for \$665 per troy ounce. No wonder exploration geologists are so interested in PGM's!

Northern Minnesota is one of the best places geologists can actively look for PGM's in the United States. Lehmann Exploration Management (LEM) in Minneapolis is one such company that is exploring for PGM's in a promising area around Birch Lake, just south of Ely, Minnesota, and located within the Superior National Forest. LEM has acquired various leases/permits in this area, one of which is a mineral lease with the State of Minnesota for the bottom of Birch Lake, which is a shallow reservoir built to hold water for the Kawishiwi Hydroelectric Station.

BLM has issued hardrock mineral leases for almost 5,000 acres around Birch Lake and has also issued hardrock prospecting permits for land along the shore and unsurveyed islands in Birch Lake.

To gain access to the state-owned minerals under Birch Lake, LEM was first interested in building an access road across national forest land, hoping to set up a drill rig near the shore and directionally-drill under the lake. Build-



**A barge-mounted drill rig explores for platinum and palladium in Birch Lake in northern Minnesota. The rig drills out at depths up to 3,000 feet, a 1 1/2-inch diameter "core," or cylinder of rock for testing.**

ing the access road proved to be impractical, so they moved to "Plan B," which involved drilling through the ice in winter. Normally, the ice on Birch Lake, about 30 miles from the Canadian border, gets very thick. But, two especially warm winters kept LEM off the ice, so they moved to "Plan C," which involved drilling from the water surface.

To do this, LEM contracted with a drilling company that uses a barge outfitted with a very quiet drilling rig. Successful drilling from the barge began last summer, with no violations or complaints received. Plans are underway to continue the drilling this summer, beginning in late June through October.

In the future, LEM would like to explore the unsurveyed islands in Birch Lake for which they hold Federal prospecting permits issued by BLM Eastern States. To avoid impacting the islands, some of which contain bald eagle nests, LEM plans to drill just offshore of these islands, thereby exploring the area without adversely affecting the islands themselves.

### ***State Director...continued from page 3***

A visit was made to a large operation that is operated by Denbury Resources. The site included four directional wells which produce heavy oil. Production at this site comes from a depth of 11,000 feet. One well at the site has produced a cumulative total of 1,029,000 barrels of oil and 215,800 MCF (thousand cubic feet) of gas from the Tuscaloosa Formation since February 1996. Current annual production at the site totals 172,600 barrels of oil and 30,452 MCF of gas.

Wells and facilities were also visited at a smaller operation by Samson Resources. One well at this site has been producing since August 1989. Cumulative production has totalled 167,000 barrels of oil and 21,738 MCF of gas from the Paluxy Formation, at 13,000 feet and from Clayton sand at 8,000 feet, with an annual production of 12,000 barrels of oil.



## Kids Learn and Catch Fish

*Story and photo by Patrice Junius, Outreach Specialist, Jackson Field Office*

Over 80 excited kids traveled through “Pathways to Fishing” at Lefluer’s Bluff State Park’s Mayes Lake in Jackson, Mississippi on May 12. The event was sponsored by the BLM Jackson Field Office (JFO), the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, and the Jackson Bass Club.

A few days before the event, Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks put out 700 catfish in a netted-off area at the lake. The participants learned about aquatic ecology and angler ethics in small groups and received “hands on” instruction from experienced anglers from the Jackson Bass Club on how to catch fish. Pathway sessions ran every 15 minutes and lasted approximately 1 hour. After each session, youngsters practiced what they learned at their own pace before heading to the lake, where they were allowed to catch up to three fish.

Many of the participants were Girl Scouts, while others came independently and were accompanied by their parents. The Girl Scouts set up an arts and crafts section, which their members had to complete along with the “Pathways to Fishing” in order to receive a badge.

Volunteers from the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the JFO worked diligently all day to



**Jackson Bass Club Member Kathy Riley helps a Girl Scout at the “Pathways to Fishing” event in Mississippi.**

ensure a safe environment and great experience for the kids.

The Mississippi Educational Television (ETV) filmed the event for its “Mississippi Outdoors” series, and the network interviewed several kids, parents and volunteers during the day. Like last year, one of the highlights of the event included a drawing for four kids to go on a fishing trip with the professionals from the Jackson Bass Club. The network featured stories about the winners from last year while on their guided fishing trips.

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## “Fishing Has No Boundaries” Holds Largest Event Ever

*Story and photo by Joanne Marean, Management Assistant, Milwaukee Field Office*



**A youngster from Cudahy, Wisconsin holds a rock bass he caught at the “Fishing Has No Boundaries” event at Eagle River, Wisconsin.**

It was a typical winter day in northern Wisconsin—windy, rainy, 40 degrees, and perfect weather for the fish—but not for the 105 participants and volunteers from as far away as Racine, Cudahy, and Milwaukee, who were expecting a warm, sunny day at the beginning of June. In spite of the challenging weather, people bundled up to have some fishing fun at the “Fishing Has No Boundaries” weekend event, held at Eagle River.

Each year, BLM’s Milwaukee Field Office helps with this event which is an educational, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to opening up the great outdoors and fishing to physically challenged individuals.

*Continued on page 6*



### *Fishing Has No Boundaries...continued from page 5*

The event introduces educational devices to aid the physically challenged angler and offers a fishing experience to individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity

Fishing Has No Boundaries President Tom Mansfield, of the Hayward, Wisconsin, Eagle River Chapter, said, "This has been the largest event ever for the Eagle River Chapter."

Local residents supplied 30 pontoon boats for the event, and businesses donated gasoline, food, rods and reels, fishing tackle, and lunch to the participants and volunteers.

At each day's end, boats returned to the docks, and lucky anglers cleaned their "catch of the day" for an evening meal.

## Youngsters Enjoy a "1st" Fishing Opportunity at Constitution Gardens

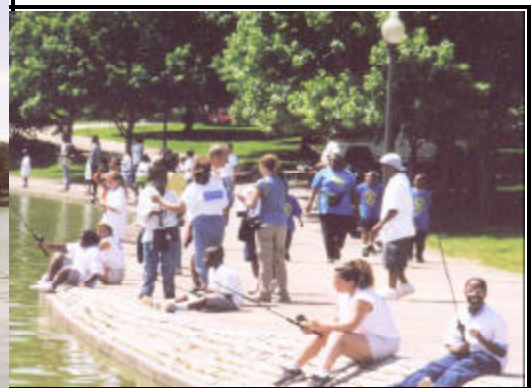
*By Michelle Alvarez, Public Affairs Assistant, and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, External Affairs*



**Secretary of Interior Gale Norton speaks to the partnering District of Columbia City Offices and Federal Agencies, participants and volunteers at National Fishing and Boating Day in Washington, D.C.**



**Two youngsters spend some quiet time awaiting their "big catch" while viewing the impressive Washington Monument.**



**Eastern States employees assist young anglers on National Fishing and Boating Day on the Mall at Constitution Gardens in Washington, D.C.**

**Photos by Peggy Riek**

**J**une 5 marked a day of fishing fun during National Fishing and Boating Week at Constitution Gardens on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Volunteers from DC's Federal and City Government Offices—the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, D.C. Fisheries, American Sportfishing Association, and National Marine Fisheries Service—came out to teach over 450 students from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia about their environment and some angling basics at "Pathways to Fishing" stations, and, most importantly, to have some fishing fun.

Opening day guest speakers included Bruce Matthews from the Recreational Boating and Fishing

Foundation and Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who spoke a few words about National Fishing and Boating Week 2001 as well as protecting our environment. She even had some fun helping a youngster with the official "castoff" for the event.

While the fishing was mainly for the kids, many of the volunteers had a good time too—helping the kids with the fishing rods (hooking worms and untangling lines) and enjoying their excitement about the chance to go fishing, hoping to catch "the big one." "It was fun to see the look on the kids' faces when they caught a fish. That made it all worthwhile," said BLM Eastern States Deputy State Director Ron Fox.





## Plugging an Orphan Well

*Story and photo by Singh Ahuja, Physical Scientist, Milwaukee Field Office*

**D**uring routine inspections of Federal oil and gas wells, BLM inspectors occasionally discover oil wells that are not in compliance with Federal regulations. Sometimes, operators have either gone bankrupt or have simply chosen not to comply with the regulations, which can include surface restoration and the plugging of wells. These wells are known as orphan wells—wells that are not producing or injecting, have not received State approval to remain idle, and for which the operator is unknown or is not solvent. By law, the BLM is required to plug an orphan well to protect the freshwater, freshwater-bearing and other mineral bearing formations from contamination.

In 1999, BLM became aware of an orphan well in Ohio. We found that in April 1929, the Ohio Fuel Gas Company in Lawrence County abandoned a dry hole well which was drilled to a depth of 3,101 feet below the surface in the Medina Sand Formation. In the early 1980's, the U.S. Forest Service discovered that the well was leaking brine and gas into a nearby creek and contaminating the surface. Based on other well reports in the area, the principle producing zone in the area was in the Clinton Formation, and usable water was occurring at a depth of less than 120 feet below the surface in the project area; therefore, we believed the leaking saltwater was coming from a depth of 2,620 to 2,880 feet below the surface.

The BLM took the lead in coordinating with the Wayne National Forest and the State of



Reclamation work has been completed to plug the leaky orphan well, pictured, in Lawrence County, Ohio.

Ohio, Division of Mineral Resources, to award a contract for plugging the well under the Cost Share Funds Grant. Restoration of the site began in December 2000 and was completed on April 13, 2001.

As a result of the Cost Share Grant with the State of Ohio, the Federal Government saved about \$12,000, reduced the Federal environmental liability, and became a valuable partner with the Wayne National Forest and the State of Ohio in protecting our natural resources for present and future generations.

To date, BLM's Milwaukee Field Office has entered into such informal working relationships with the States of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to collectively pursue operators with Shut In/Temporary Abandoned wells to make sure they do not become orphaned.

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## Volunteers Join BLM for Earth Day Celebration



Photo by Jinx Fox

On April 21, Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon joined several other BLM employees—Jinx Fox, Geoff Walsh, Theresa Jefferson, and Walt Rewinski—who volunteered their time to staff a booth at the “2001 Elizabeth Hartwell Earth Day” at Mason Neck State Park in Virginia. Pictured is Eastern States Wildlife Biologist Geoffrey Walsh assisting young children to become acquainted with a former wild horse. Activities for the day included a garden archaeology tour, a walk through closed portions of the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, a nature hike, canoe trip, pony rides, wildlife programs, and live music.



## Wild Mustang Greets Children at Conservation Field Day

*Story and photo by Patrice Junius, Outreach Specialist, Jackson Field Office*

**W**hen Cindy Beasley saw a wild mustang on the Internet that was going to be available for adoption through the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program, she couldn't believe her eyes. "He was just beautiful," she said. "I knew I just had to have him and bring him home to live with my other horses," said Cindy.

The wild mustang that is now known as Diamond Hills "Iceman," or "Ice," was captured in the Diamond Hills Region in Nevada in October 1999 and was adopted by Beasley through the Internet in February 18, 2000. "Ice" currently resides in Ripley, Tennessee, with his owners Cindy and Ken Beasley.

In just 2 years since his capture, "Ice" is now being admired by elementary school children and has become a celebrity attraction. The Jackson Field Office asked the Beasleys to bring the wild mustang to Mississippi on May 17 to participate in the Grenada County Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Field Day at the beautiful Grenada Lake and Campground, where he greeted over 60 school age kids from throughout



**Adopted mustang, Diamond Hills "Iceman," was no stranger at the Grenada County, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation District Field Day.**

Grenada County. Standing tall in his corral, "Ice" was the host of the BLM station.

"He is really a great horse who loves children and we knew this would be great for him. He's only 2 years old and has been surrounded by kids ever since we brought him home," said Cindy.

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## Wonderful Outdoor World Camping Season Takes Off

*By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, and Marcella Davis, Environmental Education Program Specialist, Eastern States*

**T**he 2001 Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) Camp Out Season has kicked off its second year with yet another busy schedule. Along with getting equipment ready for use, careful planning, putting together flyers, agendas, and last-minute preparations, Eastern States employees are once again busy getting organized for each camp out as if it were the very first event!

Camp out fun for most WOW events includes a weekend of camping, setting up tents, a

safety orientation session, and environmental education activities such as "Urban Leave No Trace," Recycle Relay, Backyard Conservation, learning about wildlife and campfires, and even some quiet time and a memorable group photo.

Since May, two camp outs have been held—in Glenarden and North Brentwood, Maryland. On June 12, WOW sponsored an outdoor WOW camping event on the National Washington Mall and at Anacostia Park, where Interior Secretary



*Continued on page 10*





## “Saving Our Lights!” in Michigan

*By Paul Salvatore, Realty Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office*

**T**he U.S. Coast Guard has several lighthouses properties in the Great Lakes area which they no longer need. They're relinquishing these properties to the BLM's Milwaukee Field Office. Concerned individuals and organizations have voiced concerns that the properties stay in a public ownership, remain accessible to the public, and most importantly, be maintained and preserved.

In spring 1998, the State Historic Preservation Office of the Michigan Historical Center and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network convened a meeting with representatives from Federal and State government, state and national preservation advocacy organizations, legislators, and other interested parties to address the fate of Michigan's lighthouses. As a result, the Michigan Lighthouse Project (MLP) was established with a mission “to increase public and government awareness of lighthouse preservation issues and identify ways to ensure this preservation.”

On May 31, 2001, the MLP sponsored a “Save Our Lights!” conference to explain current strategies for saving Michigan's lighthouses to individuals and preservation groups as well as to stewards who shared their challenges and successes to successfully manage, maintain, and rehabilitate these important monuments. The conference also provided an opportunity for MLP to present the processes of the various Federal Agencies involved, historical, and current issues surrounding the lighthouses.



Photo by Chris Hansen

**Milwaukee Field Office Realty Specialist Paul Salvatore addresses concerns about the preservation of lighthouses at the “Save Our Lights!” conference in Mackinaw City, Michigan.**

Milwaukee Field Office Assistant Field Manager Chris Hanson and Realty Specialist Paul Salvatore participated in panel discussions. Chris explained the Bureau's role with the Michigan Lighthouse Project and outlined the process by which lighthouse properties return to public domain and are ultimately transferred under the Recreation & Public Purposes (R&PP) Act. Paul also presented a new “guide” that the MFO Realty Staff has developed to assist groups in understanding the requirements for submitting an application for a lighthouse under the R&PP Act and includes examples of uses that are acceptable. In both sessions, Chris and Paul emphasized that the MFO is available and eager to work with interested parties in protecting these valuable and cherished resources. The rewarding challenge continues to “Save Our Lights!”

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### Comment Card/E-mail Briefs

**General Land Office**—“This is a letter of thanks to you & your agency for the excellent web site. I am working on the genealogy of my family in IL, OR, CA and elsewhere & I have found your site very useful in helping me to locate the counties where my ancestors settled over time. The point about indicating the actual county is important since some other sites that put up BLM information often either neglect this or make it very difficult to determine the county involved. I appreciate the clear organization of the site, like the information it contains, and am especially pleased to find PDF files for most of the land transactions.”

*Dave Pemberton*

**Wild Horse & Burro**—“This past weekend, we adopted our first mustang through the Cross Plains, TN facility. We were very impressed with the people there and the way they handled the adoption. The day was very organized. Everything was handled with a minimum of time. Everyone was helpful and friendly. They had a nice program to provide good information to adopters about training their new horse. It was a very nice experience. We adopted a yearling filly which we have fallen in love with and has already begun to respond to us. The Adopt-a-Mustang program is a wonderful program and I hope that we will be able to adopt more horses in the future. Thank you very much.” *Charles S. Fullgraf*



## Team BLM Eastern States Races for the Cure!

*By Shelby Huffman, Archives Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey*

Despite the threat of rain, Team BLM from Eastern States enthusiastically participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Komen National Race for the Cure, which took place on June 2 in Washington, D.C. For the second year in a row, 43 team members, consisting of BLM employees, their families and friends, walked and ran through the streets of DC early Saturday morning in a 5K race to benefit breast cancer research. All team members showed their team spirit by sporting their race shirts and pink ribbon buttons.

This year's race attracted more than 72,000 registered participants, and 720 teams were represented. Of the money raised, at least \$1 million will stay in the Washington, D.C. area for local breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment programs. With such a great turn out this year, the Komen Foundation even ran out of white running shirts, and yellow volunteer shirts!



Photo by Michelle Bivens

Team BLM Eastern States team members—(Bottom from left) Gina English, Cathy Rodine, Linda Abbott, and Kate Marks (Team Co-Captain); (Second row, from left) Myra Musialkiewicz, Andrea Nygren, Fatemah Ezzati, Joe Marks, Isabell Thurman, and Steve McDermott; and (Top, from left) Annalea Harris, Anita Huffman, Danielle Simmons, Jacob & Tammy Bundy, Shelby Huffman (Team Captain), Oliver Petruzell, Dixie Lopez, Monica Lopez, Josie Gyurik, Gayle Roy, Ken & Hayden Roy, and Joy Pasquariello.

### *WOW...continued from page 8*

Secretary Gale Norton and other Bureau officials participated. The theme was "Great Outdoors Week 2001: Excitement Galore!!"

Several hundred students from the DC Metropolitan area participated in a busy day on the Mall. One-half of the youngsters learned how to put up tents, participated in the regular environmental education activities and enjoyed the company of a corralled wild horse and burro supplied by the BLM. The kids also heard about close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities, and, as a special treat, they enjoyed climbing the "Wall of the Mall"—a climbing wall provided by Kitty Hawk Kites.

Another group of students gathered at Anacostia Park, where boating industry associations, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and others teamed up to provide a morning of fishing fun, and provided a river tour.



(From left) Eastern States Environmental Education Program Specialist Marcella Davis and Staff Assistant Jackie Choudhury instruct a group of children about the "Leave No Trace" activity. The youngsters learned about disposal of trash, recyclable products, and toxics.



## Business-Based GIS Technology in the WH&B Program

*By Bob Schoolar, Geographic Information Specialist, Jackson Field Office*

While production of cartographic-quality mapping is an important part of a Geographic Information System (GIS), it is just one small aspect of a much larger science. The real power of a true GIS, such as ArcInfo and ArcView, lies within the system's analytical capability to integrate multiple layers of large geographic and non-geographic data in order to reveal new information about the interactions of the environment.

GIS technology has developed several specialties including environmental, medical, telecommunications, defense intelligence, real estate, business applications, and a marketing application known as spatial marketing. Spatial marketing utilizes the capability of a GIS to combine historic, infrastructure, demographic, socioeconomic, transportation, and other themes that can help pinpoint areas where desirable conditions exist for the marketing of a particular product or service. Spatial marketing is one of the fastest growing branches of GIS and has become a major business application in the private sector.

The Jackson Field Office (JFO) GIS specialist has been working in partnership with the public affairs specialists and wild horse and burro program specialists to develop a GIS marketing application for the wild horse and burro adoption efforts in the southeastern United States. Basically, historic BLM adoption data, agricultural census data, and 5-digit zip code data have been combined to locate areas with proven or potential new markets for the adoption program.

Even though the technology is fairly complex, the marketing concept is basic. In choosing a place to live, people tend to seek neighborhoods matching their lifestyles. Thus, people in one geographic area tend to have similar consumer behavior. While families come and go from the area, the lifestyles and consumer preferences tend to persist over time. When two or more strong and independent indicators, such as those used here, point favorably to customers (adopters and other horse owners) living in one place over a long period of time, it is reasonable to consider that place a favorable market now and in the future.

With the data in place, 43 thousand zip codes in the continental United States were categorized into four market segments according to the concentrations of past adopters and owners of farms with horses and ponies. This market segmentation analysis revealed that, for one segment, 41 percent of all past adopters live in zip codes that collectively represent only 6 percent of the country. In fact, three of the four market segments account for the location of nearly 75 percent of all past adopters living in an area that covers only 20 percent of the country.

The JFO has been using this information in two ways—first, to aid in the yearly planning decisions for adoption locations, and second, as a marketing tool to aid in the promotional efforts for an adoption event. In this second application, the GIS is used to isolate individuals and media in each of the favorable zip code areas in order to focus the promotion efforts in the areas most likely to produce a positive return. The end products of this process are maps and tabular reports used by public affairs specialists, to help decide where to place additional advertising, conduct media interviews, and create mailing labels for promotional materials such as postcards aimed at specific target audiences.

To monitor the success of this process, the actual locations of the adopters for an event are being compared against the predicted locations. Typically, we are seeing 60 to 70 percent of the adopters coming from the targeted areas, which usually represent between 20 and 30 percent of the total market area. This result means that, on average, our customers are found in the targeted areas at a rate of 2 to 3 times greater than would be expected by random chance.

As a result of this work, the JFO participated in the "National Marketing Plan for the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program" released by the public relations firm, Fleishman-Hilliard, Inc. in January 2001. The GIS work done in the JFO was used by the Marketing Research Division of Fleishman-Hilliard and included in their final plan.





## The “Art” of Storytelling

*Story and photo by Carol Grundman, Petroleum Accountability Technician, Milwaukee Field Office*

**A**rt DiGrazia, Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) Specialist, enchanted 3rd grade students at Elmwood Elementary School in New Berlin, Wisconsin with “horse tales” and other stories about America’s wild horses and burros. MFO WH&B Specialists Rebecca Chase and June Conaway joined Art as he wove a story about our nation’s wild horses roaming the grasslands of the West and their long journey to find adoptive homes across our country.

During the program, BLM and America’s Outdoors helped students celebrate a year-long study of our nation’s geography and wildlife. America’s Outdoors provided packets of information and activities for students, and curriculum support for teachers. Students learned about the history of wild horses in America, their natural habitat, and the importance of protecting and preserving the wild horses as part of our nation’s cultural heritage. They also listened to a Native American story, learned to decipher a branding code, and experienced an up-close meeting with “Artie,” our 8-year old mustang. “Artie” delighted students with tricks, some wet sneezes, and lots of “nibbles” when each student had the



**Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) Specialist Art DiGrazia tells his story about the roaming wild horses in the West to a group of students at Elmwood Elementary School in New Berlin, Wisconsin. WH&B Specialists Rebecca Chase and June Conaway stand by to help with the “horse tales” and stories.**

opportunity to feed him carrots and apples from their own trail mix snack

Through this experience, the students will long remember the great stories and enriching program presented by Art and the MFO WH&B staff. They now have a better understanding of our public lands and the animals that share it with them.

## America’s Outdoors Sponsors Booth at Gem and Mineral Show

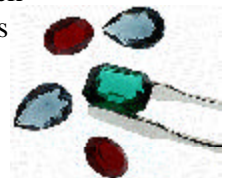
*By Lucille Tamm, Geologist, Milwaukee Field Office*

**F**rom May 18-20, America’s Outdoors sponsored an outreach booth at the Annual Gem and Mineral Show of the Wisconsin Geological Society (WGS) in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. The weekend show included topics such as recreational opportunities on Federal lands, energy and minerals, and safety precautions around mining areas.

BLM Geologists Dave LaChance, Lucille Tamm, and Jeff Nolder answered questions on mineral and fossil collection and the commercial development of mineral resources on public lands. A small display of leasable energy minerals such as coal, oil shale, and oil and gas interested many of the young people attending the show.

Other education exhibits on display ranged from carved jade to glacial geology to dinosaur bones provided by club members and the Milwaukee Public Museum. Sales of mineral and fossil specimens by both the WGS and about 20 vendors also provided a diverse and colorful event.

An extensive children’s area was set up to allow the kids some “hands on” experiences which included decorating objects with tumbled semiprecious stones and assembling introductory rock collections from specimens of common rocks and minerals. Posters of fossils found on U.S. Forest Service lands were also very popular with the kids and teachers as well at the America’s Outdoors booth.



## Employee Feature—Marcella Davis, Program Specialist

*By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States*

In earlier times, Marcella Davis was well known in BLM as “one of those ‘top-notch’ secretaries” on the 5th floor of the BLM in the Main Interior Building—“mahogany row” as it was sometimes called. Marcella knew it all—correspondence preparation, tracking high level meetings, procedures for the office, mentoring new clerical employees, and just about anything else. Word had it, “If you had a question or wanted to know how to do something, just call Marcella.” Well, that was then.

Today, Marcella has a new role in BLM. Since 1996 Marcella has been employed as a Program Specialist for Eastern States’ Environmental Education Outreach Program, which is responsible for such projects as the Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) camping program, the development of the DC Mustang Troop, and the Pine Forge Academy’s Environmental Education Camp. She is a voting member of the Steering Committee of the DC Urban Tree House (DCUTH), a member of DC’s Environmental Health Administration’s Earth Day Committee, and a member of the Environmental Education Consortium which falls under the DCUTH umbrella. “It’s the best job yet,” said Marcella.

Marcella was born and grew up in Washington, D.C. After high school, she continued her education and received an Associates of Arts degree in Business Management from the Prince George’s Community College in Largo, Maryland. She presently attends University College at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland where, with two years to go, she is seeking a 4-year degree in Business Management. For the last 3 years she has also served as recording secretary for Phi Delta Kappa, Chapter 1521 of the University of the District of Columbia. Marcella has always had a special desire to continue with her education; and at a time when she could be retiring, she feels she has been given a “second wind” to accomplish this important personal goal. This she attributes to her



**Marcella Davis proudly poses for a photo in her official BLM uniform, always ready for the next environmental education event.**

successes and challenges in her work life and to the many opportunities she has encountered through the years.

Marcella began her Federal Government career 30 years ago as an editorial clerk at the General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C. She transferred to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and later moved to the BLM where she held positions in a variety of Bureau program offices such as the Division of Standards and Technology; Division of Planning and Program Development; and Offices of Deputy and Assistant Directors for Mineral Resources. She served as an administrative officer and budget analyst with the Alaska Gas Transportation Pipeline Project Office, and a legislative affairs specialist with the Division of Legislation and Regulatory Affairs. Prior to coming to Eastern States, she worked as a management analyst, group lead and manager in the Division of Administrative Services, Branch of Washington Office Directives.

Marcella’s hope for Eastern States is that future Bureau budgets will allow her and the Environmental Education staff she works with to one day manage the program to its fullest potential—to put Eastern States’ Environmental Education Outreach Program on the map!



## ES Happenings

**O**n April 26, America's Outdoors helped Fernwood High School in the Bay View area of Milwaukee, Wisconsin celebrate their 5th Earth Day Program at South Shore Park Pavillion. Students from eight neighborhood schools and representatives from the South Shore Park Watch took part in activities, games and presentations on nature, the outdoors, animals, trees, plantings, weeds, and the environment. America's Outdoors also made 1/2 hour presentations to 4th through 8th grade students on the parts of trees, tree aging, and nutrients that trees need to survive.

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Cable TV station, Animal Planet, attended the Jackson, Mississippi WH&B Adoption held in December 2000, and aired the program "A Pet Story" this past April. The crew from Difede Productions filmed various stages of the adoption and adopters, including visits from several hundred elementary school-age children, and a demonstration on how to train a wild horse and burro. Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialists Shayne Banks and Lisa Flanagan were also interviewed in the film.

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In mid-May, Corky Rodine, Jerry Wahl and Ken Roy from BLM's ES Division of Cadastral Survey and General Land Office (GLO) Records, along with retired Cadastral Surveyor Lane Bouman, conducted a week-long training class on the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) for students from Troy State University and the Alabama Society of Public Land Surveyors in Luntersville, Alabama. Classroom sessions included instruction on the history, laws, and procedures of the PLSS, followed by 2 days of field work retracing an original public land survey.

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The Milwaukee Field Office has initiated oil and gas leasing efforts in the State of New York in response to the exploration of a deep gas play in the Trenton-Black River formations in central and western New York. These efforts will focus on the Finger Lakes National Forest and 13 different split-estate project areas, where the surface is managed by the State and the minerals are owned by the United States.

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In mid-March, Jackson Field Office Outreach Specialist Patrice Junius and Wildlife Biologist Faye Winters represented the BLM at "Nature Fest 2001," which was sponsored by the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. BLM-ES hosted a Scavenger Hunt for over 100 children to find answers to questions from the exhibits throughout the museum.

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Eastern States employees Larry Cave and Jennifer Spencer staffed a booth May 15-19 at the National Genealogical Society's annual conference in Portland, Oregon. The GLO Automated Records Web Site demonstration attracted a large number of genealogists, historians and librarians. As a result, the Web Site at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> has received a significant increase in the number of visitors searching the records. Currently, the Web Site contains data on more than 3 million land title records from 30 public domain states and continues to offer more records as automation progresses.

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From June 14-18, Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialists Shayne Banks and Lisa Reid, ES WH&B Lead Jinx Fox, and Eric Reid from BLM's Cedar City Field Office in Utah, represented BLM at Equitanna, U.S.A. The event is the largest horse industry trade show in the United States, bringing in horse enthusiasts from around the globe.

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The Milwaukee Field Office helped sponsor the "Golden Party" at the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 13. At the event, Barnes and Noble sponsored a storytime and Friends of the Boerner Botanical Gardens provided a nature craft activity where the children decorated a pot and were given seeds to take home to start their own garden. Milwaukee Field Office Geologist Lucille Tamm, in association with America's Outdoors, gave the children an opportunity to explore dirt—looking at the animal, vegetable and mineral components of the ground beneath their feet.

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In celebration of Earth Day 2001, some BLM Eastern States employees volunteered a few hours on a Saturday in April to participate in an Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of Fullerton Road in Springfield, Virginia.

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In May, the *Federal Computer Week* highlighted BLM's Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) Internet Adoption Program and featured a story on an interview with a satisfied participant of the last Internet Adoption. The adoption was available in real time on the Web Site at <http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov> and viewed by over 400 people. Eastern States WH&B Internet Adoptions began in 1998 and have proven to be a popular, innovative way to find good homes for wild horses and burros.

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*Continued on page 15*





### *ES Happenings...continued from page 14*

On June 28, BLM Eastern States and U.S. Customs employees donated 51 whole units of blood at the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross blood drive.

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Leases for 19 parcels of Federal land in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi were sold at a Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale on June 28, 2001, bringing in \$54,961. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue totalling over \$34,108 will go to the U.S. Treasury and over \$20,000 will be shared with the affected States. Bidding opened at \$2 per acre, and R7R Investments from Corpus Christi, Texas paid \$16,000 for a 40-acre parcel in Beauregard Parish, Louisiana. Their bid of \$400 per acre was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.

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## 2001 Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew



Photo by Clay Moore

Pictured are (bottom row, left to right) Jason Waquie, Robert White, Gorgon Myer, Wade Irish, Ryan Hagenah, Odis Robertson, Charles Wicks, Daric Burr (top row, left to right) Apollo Graham, Steven Counts, William Hudson, Matthew Calloway, Frederick Ashford, Lamar Liddell, Tony Jordon, Brian Parsons, Rowland Clark, Aarion Brown, and Anthony Ashalintubbi.

## Employee Scene

(April 8, 2001, through June 30, 2001)

### Star Awards

**Pam Taylor**, Production Accountability Technician, Jackson Field Office, for her long-term commitment to quality work and customer service and for her continued support to the Inspection and Enforcement Team.

**Theresa Jefferson**, Environmental Education Specialist, State Office, for simultaneously fulfilling her primary assignment with the Wild Horse & Burro Program and staff support to State Director's Office, Office of External Affairs, and the Environmental Education Program over the past 8 months with enthusiasm. Theresa also consistently sought opportunities to volunteer for special activities and events in support of the Eastern States' mission.

## Comings & Goings

**New Employees — Permanent:** State Office—Deborah Allen, WH&B Program Specialist; James Boys, Lead Computer Specialist, and Iris O'Neal, Computer Specialist; Jackson Field Office—Charles Boyd; Milwaukee Field Office—June Conaway; **Temporary:** Jackson Field Office—Anthony Ashalintubbi, Erica Blackman, Daric Burr, Matthew Calloway, Rowland Clark, Michael Conley, Steve Counts, Ryan Hagenah, William Hudson, Wade Irish, Tony Jordon, Gorgon Myer, Brian Parsons, Odis Robertson, Jason Waquie, Robert White, and Charles Wicks.

**Students — Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP):** State Office—Michele Alley, Michelle Alvarez, Chris Bailey, Bruce Duval, Aaron Holmes, Elon Hudson, Jahleel Hudson, Daniel Kittka, Jesse Kopach, Adam Lyons, Jennifer Piper, Latisha Swinson, Roya Vassy-Yeganeh, and Juan Pablo Viegaza; Milwaukee Field Office—Manisha Ghorai. **Student Career Experience Program (SCEP):** State Office—Milli Alam and Robert Patterson; Jackson Field Office—Aarion Brown and Erica Richardson. **Department of Interior Intern:** State Office—George Taylor.

**Transfers — Quazi Islam**, Jackson Field Office, Physical Scientist to Minerals Management Service, Metairie, LA  
**Gina English**, Division of Cadastral Survey, Quality Assurance Specialist, Resigned

**Retiree — Tom Hansen**, Milwaukee Field Office, Law Enforcement Officer

*"Congratulations to Lisa Flanagan, Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialist, who recently married Eric Reid, Rangeland Technician, from BLM's Cedar City Field Office in Utah."*





## MFO Celebrates 2nd Annual "Spring Fling" at Lynden Hill

Story and photo by Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

On June 9, the Milwaukee Field Office, America's Outdoors (AO), participated in its traditional "Spring Fling" at Milwaukee's Urban Tree House (UTH) site at Lynden Hill in Wisconsin. The event drew a crowd of over 200 people for a day of fun and opportunities to learn about environmental education. The event was sponsored and coordinated by the Midtown Neighborhood Association, an UTH partner, and a host of other partnering volunteers.

Seven environmental education stations were coordinated and staffed by AO, co-workers and volunteers. Stations included making a bird feeder, coloring and leaf rubbing, learning about the nature-wolf trunk with skulls and skeletons, up close and personal with live birds of prey, and face painting. The event also featured flower plantings and flower-bed weeding, karate demonstrations, a dance

featuring the music group "Oceans of Soul," a plant sale, corn roast, the Milwaukee Police Department horse unit, food and refreshments.

One of the activities at the "Spring Fling" was making a bird feeder. Pictured is a young girl spreading peanut butter onto a pine cone to make a bird feeder. She then added seeds to the pine cone to complete the feeder.



**Eastern States Mission** — We will continue to play a central role in fostering the acquisition, management and conservation of public lands and their resources spanning the 31 States east of and bordering the Mississippi River.

Major programs include: Cadastral Survey, General Land Office Records, Wild Horse & Burro Adoptions, Energy & Minerals, and Communication.

For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713, or visit our Web Site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/>. Editor: M. M. Riek

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*Eastern States — committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.*

